In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

1. (**Thrice Amended**) A method for promoting survival of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/threonine kinase receptor and a GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

contacting said neural cells with an effective concentration of a preparation comprising

(a) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone, and

(b) a GDNF neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 or NT-6.

11. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said neural cells comprise neurons or neurological cells.

13. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said neural cells comprise peripheral nervous system cells.

15. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology with the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, and wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.

16. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology with the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, and wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.

17. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen comprises an amino acid sequence at least 70% identical to the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1.

18. (**Thrice Amended**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen is selected from OP-1, OP-2, OP-3, BMP2, BMP3, BMP4, BMP5, BMP6 or BMP9.

D3

19. (**Amended Twice**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said effective concentration of the preparation is between 0.1 ng/ml and 10 μg/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between 0.1 ng/ml and 10 μg/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

20. (**Reiterated**) A method as in claim 19 wherein, said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen.

21. (**Amended**) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

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22. (**Amended**) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

D5

23. (**Amended Twice**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said GDNF neurotrophic factor comprises GDNF.

D6

28. (**Thrice Amended**) A pharmaceutical preparation for promoting the survival of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/threonine kinase receptor and a GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

(a) a GDNF neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 or NT-6, and

(b) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.

29. (**Twice Amended**) A pharmaceutical preparation for inhibiting the death or degeneration of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/ threonine kinase receptor and a GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

(a) a GDNF neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 or NT-6, and

(b) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.

Please also add the following new claims:

30. (**New**) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein said GDNF neurotropic factor comprises GDNF.

31. (**New**) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein said NGF neurotropic factor comprises NT-3.

32. (**New**) The method of claim 1, wherein said NGF neurotrophic factor comprises NT-3.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up version below.

1. (**Thrice Amended**) A method for promoting survival ~~or growth~~ of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/threonine kinase receptor and a ~~GDNF/NGF~~ GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

contacting said neural cells with an effective concentration of a preparation comprising

(a) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone, and

(b) a GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 ~~and~~ or NT-6.

18. (**Thrice Amended**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen is selected from OP-1, OP-2, OP-3, BMP2, BMP3, BMP4, BMP5, BMP6 ~~and~~ or BMP9.

19. (**Amended Twice**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said effective concentration of the preparation is between 0.1 ng/ml and 10 μg/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between

0.1 ng/ml and 10 μg/ml of said GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

21. (**Amended**) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

22. (**Amended**) A method as in claim 19, wherein said effective concentration is between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said OP/BMP morphogen and between 1 ng/ml and 100 ng/ml of said GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or said NGF neurotrophic factor.

23. (**Amended Twice**) A method as in claim 1, wherein said GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor comprises GDNF.

28. (**Thrice Amended**) A pharmaceutical preparation for promoting the survival ~~or growth~~ of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/threonine kinase receptor and a ~~GDNF/NGF~~ GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

(a) a GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 ~~and~~ or NT-6, and

(b) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.

29. (**Twice Amended**) A pharmaceutical preparation for inhibiting the death or degeneration of mammalian neural cells, wherein said cells express an OP/BMP-activated serine/ threonine kinase receptor and a ~~GDNF/NGF~~ GDNF- or NGF-activated tyrosine kinase receptor, comprising:

(a) a GDNF~~/NGF~~ neurotrophic factor or a NGF neurotrophic factor selected from GDNF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5 ~~and~~ or NT-6, and

(b) an OP/BMP morphogen having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% homology or 60% identity with the C-terminal seven cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, wherein said OP/BMP morphogen can induce ectopic bone.